

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (currently amended) A method of detecting the shape of an object a patient body part to be treated, said method comprising the following steps:

 - a) applying at least one marker to the patient body part, said at least one marker being detectable by a navigation system;
 - b) producing a camera image of the object patient body part;
 - bc) mapping an outline of the object patient body part, said outline appearing sharp in the camera image, in a first plane by means of an analyzer connected to the camera;
 - ed) altering the focusing distance of the camera;
 - de) mapping a sharp outline of the object patient body part in a second plane by means of the analyzer;
 - ef) repeating steps bc) to de) until a sufficient number of outlines has been mapped so that the three-dimensional shape of the object patient body part can be established;
 - g) assigning a location and shape of the patient body part in the navigation system via a position of the at least one marker captured by the camera; and
 - h) processing the mapped shape of the patient body part by the navigation system monitoring a treatment zone to incorporate the outer shape of the patient body part in navigation.
2. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein differences in contrast are mapped to establish which outline appears sharpened in said camera image.
3. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said camera is a video camera having a very small depth of sharpness.

4. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein markers are applied to said object to highlight specific points on ~~said object~~ the patient body part for identification.

5. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said analyzer used is preferably a computer including an image processing program, in which digital image signals are processed or analog image signals, captured by said camera, are digitized and then processed.

6. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a camera is used on a surgical microscope.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 7_1, wherein at least one fixed point, detectable by said navigation system, is selected on said object to assign the location and shape of said object in said navigation system via the position of said at least one point as also captured by the camera.

10. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 7_1, which is used together with a navigation system for location referencing in radiotherapy methods or surgical operations.

11. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 7_1, wherein the mapped shape of ~~a~~ the patient body part is assigned to that shape determined by a preoperative or intraoperative scan, e.g. ~~a computer tomography or a nuclear spin tomography~~, to permit compensation or location correction.

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12. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the mapped shape of ~~said object~~ the patient body part is used to automatically focus object points or planes defined by the user.

13. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the mapped shape of ~~said object~~ the patient body part is used to produce an image which is sharp at any depth.

14-17. (cancelled)
